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## Comparative Geographical Analysis of Occupational Structure of Central Indian Highlands

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**Abstract:** Agricultural and nonagricultural activities make up occupational structure in India. People also cope with poverty and find their livelihood as labourer in agricultural farms only at the time of harvesting. The educational opportunities provide a base for other work particularly among male population. A limited space for vibrant industrialisation hampers process of occupational diversification. Cultivation provides livelihood without any gender biasness. Migration with some skills an alternate to break out the multi webbed cycle of poverty in central highlands of India. Irrigation and electricity definitely boosting locals' income inch by inch. Female migration is pacing up towards urban centres.

**Keywords:** Agrarian, Occupation, Livelihood, Migration, Narmada.

**Introduction:** People living in rural areas typically make a living through farming or related industries. Since India is primarily an agricultural nation, food production and the services it provides play a significant role in the country's GDP. Much of India's rural population is still engaged in farming. The vast majority of them work as agricultural labourers or cultivators. These two parts of the working period are crucial to their family's revenue. Most people living in rural areas of India rely on agriculture as their main source of income. Increases in farmers' incomes and general quality of life are possible outcomes of agricultural sector modernization.

According to Mahadik and Sawant (2012), the majority of India's farmers rely on agriculture for their living. Farmers in underdeveloped regions would be able to raise their standard of living by embracing new and improved agricultural technologies. So, it's in your best interest to boost agricultural productivity, as this will lead to more stable revenue in the long run. In a study conducted by Nadhkarni (1997), the key workers' industrial categories were compared between the scheduled tribe and scheduled caste population and the non-ST/SC population. Even more

worrisome is the fact that the vast majority of the tribal laborers are engaged in agricultural labor, as he discovered.

The rural regions of India's central highlands are home to many families, but it has recently come to light that some of these women leave their family behind and move to cities in search of work. The male members of the tribal community suffer from severe poverty, unemployment, beggary, and drunkenness because of this kind of female migration (Mosse, 2002).

**Study Area:** The district of Dindori lies in the south – eastern parts of Madhya Pradesh and encircled by Mandla, Anuppur, Umariya of Madhya Pradesh and Bilaspur of Chhatisgarh. This district came into existence after bifurcation of Jabalpur district. The latitudinal and longitudinal extension is 22° 17' 00" N to 23° 22' 00" N and 80° 35' 00" E to 80° 58' 00" E E and N. Dindori, Shahpura, Mehandwani, Amarpur, Karanjiya, Samnapur, and Bajag are the seven blocks that make up the district. According to the 2011 Indian Census, there are 704,524 people living in the Dindori district; 351,913 are male and 352,611 are female. In district Dindori, there are 1002 females for every 1000 males, although in urban areas there are 963 females and, thankfully, in rural regions there are 1003 females for every 1000 males. More than 95 percent population reside in rural areas of Mekal hills, physiographic unit of Central Plateau Highlands of India. The literacy rate is below national average. Dindori district has 65.48 percent literacy rate including male literate rate is 64.51 percent and 45.57 percent for female. This district is a tribal populated area and Gond, Agaria, Dhulia, Pradhan, Bhoomia, Koal and Baiga are its main habitants. The district is a home of medicinal plants with dense forests watered by sacred Narmada River. The Narmada River is major river of the district, provide fishes and other water living fauna and flora. The summers are hot with two months dry, living greenery during monsoonal period. Winters are mild and dry. Dindori district, known for fossils of ancient times and home of major precious minerals of India.

Banswara district known for its river islands and called as Scotland of Rajasthan is situated on the south eastern boundary of the Rajasthan state. It is located between latitude 23°11'00" N and 23°56'00" N and longitude 73°58'10" E to 74°49'05" E near the Tropic of Cancer. This district touches boundary of Ratlam and Jhabua districts of Madhya Pradesh, Panchmahal district of Gujrat and neighbouring with Dungarpur and Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan.

The 2011 census revealed a total population of 17,97,485 for the Banswara district, with 9,07,754 men and 8,89,731 females. There is a dense concentration of tribal people in the district's 4,522 sq km of land. With a sex ratio of 980, the district surpasses the national average. The literacy rate of the district is 56.33 percent, too below the national and state average indicating social backwardness of the district. Predominantly, a rural area with 92.9 % of population lives in villages. Schedule caste and schedule tribes makes more than one third population of the district. The district is known for its bamboo forests and Mahi Barrage on river Mahi with hundreds of islands. The economy of the district is agrarian in nature. Banswara district is also rich in minerals,

mainly deposited in crystalline igneous rocks. The Banswara district, geologically composed of Deccan traps, banded gneissic complex and Lunavada sub group of Aravallis.

### **Objectives:**

1. To analyze the composition of occupational structure of both districts, Banswara and Dindori.
2. To assess work participations of male and female in the study area.

**Hypothesis:** Physiographic units decide the nature of occupation in central highlands of study area.

**Methodology:** The Indian government's Registrar General and Census Commissioner's offices provided the data used in this study. This is the main summary of the 2011 Indian census data from the Directorate of Census Operations of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, which is part of the Indian government's Ministry of Home Affairs. Part XII-A of the 2011 Census (Series-24, dated March 31, 2014) and the District Census Handbook (Series-09, dated June 16, 2014) for the Banswara district in Rajasthan provide the foundational data for this study. The Ministry of Labor and Employment's Annual Report 2015–16, which was retrieved from the following URL: [https://labour.gov.in/sites/default/files/annual\\_report\\_2015-16.pdf](https://labour.gov.in/sites/default/files/annual_report_2015-16.pdf), is the source of this document. For both the 2015–2016 and 2016–2017 study periods, data for the most recent employment and socioeconomic survey came from the Economics and Statistics Department in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, respectively.

**Analysis of data and Results:** Banswara and Dindori districts were both examined using secondary data. Separate data was also analysed to differentiate between primary and secondary workers, and computed data was used to determine the overall number of workers. Cultivators, agricultural labourers, home industry workers, and other workers make up the four primary groups of people who work in the study region. In addition to the working-age population, the whole population of both districts was scanned. Information was compiled from secondary sources and displayed in a tabular format to facilitate calculations. The average working year for main workers is over 183 days, whereas the average working year for marginal workers is around six months. The total strength of is equal to the sum of the main workers' and marginal workers' numbers. The complete workforce consists of all employees, whether they are the primary or secondary earners.

### Workers Category of Banswara District, 2011

Sr. No.	Total Workers		Main Workers		Marginal Workers		Cultivators		Agricultural Labourers		Household Industry		Other workers	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1.	482236	434338	361194	181789	121042	252549	308485	238084	60949	138421	9662	10156	103140	47677
2.	916574		542983		373591		546569		199370		19818		150817	

### Workers Category of Dindori District, 2011

Sr. No.	Total Workers		Main Workers		Marginal Workers		Cultivators		Agricultural Labourers		Household Industry		Other workers	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1.	203,383	186,542	143645	107492	60,738	79,050	85,868	64,216	87,655	103,307	3,975	3,983	25,885	15,036
2.	389,925		250137		139,788		150,084		190,962		7,958		40,921	

### Comparison of Workers Category in Study Area

Sr. No.	Total Workers		Main Workers		Marginal Workers		Cultivators		Agricultural Labourers		Household Industry		Other workers	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1.	52.61%	43.39%	66.52%	33.48%	32.40%	67.60%	56.44%	43.56%	30.57%	69.43%	48.75%	51.25%	68.38%	31.62%
2.	52.15%	47.85%	57.42%	42.98%	43.45%	56.55%	57.21%	42.79%	45.90%	54.10%	49.94%	50.06%	63.26%	36.74%

(Index = Banswara -1 and Dindori -2)

**Cultivators:** Person who is working in the profession of cultivation on a land that is owned by him or leased by him by making payment for the purpose of cultivation is classified as a cultivator in India. The payment may be in form of cash or kind or share of the produce. Cultivation is done under supervision of the person who cultivate the land under him. The total numbers of cultivators are 546569 which includes 308485 males and 238084 females in the district of Banswara. The same category in Dindori district having 150084 persons with 85868 are males and 64216 are females. Male is dominant gender in this category in both districts.

**Agricultural Labourers:** A person who work in return for money or wages or share from the output of the agricultural income is regarded as labourer working on agricultural land. This person work without any loss as he gets payment in any form. Most of the population in the study area belongs to schedule tribe and schedule caste and find their livelihood on agricultural fields. The total numbers of agricultural labourers are 199370 from Banswara district and are 190962 from

Dindori district. Males' percentage 30.57 and 45.90 respectively in both districts while females are 138421 for Banswara and 103307 are for Dindori.

**Household Industry Workers:** Any business that one or more family members run out of their home or in close proximity to it is considered a household business. The household industry is mostly staffed by members of the family. Domestic activity in cities is typically limited to the immediate vicinity of people's homes. Household industry in Banswara is dominated by men at 48.75%, although women follow closely behind at 51.25% of the overall workforce. Gender inequality is also present in Dindori district. Participation in this category is about equal between the sexes.

#### **Other Workers:**

This category of workers excludes cultivators, agricultural labourers and people who are engaged in household industry. These persons may be employees or government servants, teachers' business persons or those persons who are doing white collar or blue-collar jobs. Priest, politician, social workers and mining barons also included in this category. Males outshine females in this category in the study area with 68.3% in Banswara and 63.26% in Dindori district.

**Non-Workers:** It is easy to find out non working populations. Those people which are not able to participate in work are considered as non workers. To calculate their numbers, total numbers of workers are subtracted by total population of the district. Dindori has fewer people who are termed as non-workers while Banswara has more dependent population. But there is relationship between non workers and workers definitely decided by literacy rate of the district.

**Conclusion:** Agriculture signifies livelihoods of people in rural India. Cultivation and agriculture labor is generating employment in the central highlands of Indian plateau. This area is inhabited by tribes and agriculture and its ancillary industries decide occupational structure of residents in these areas. Male and female, both are actively engaged in these two activities. Females are still marginalized in work participation in these areas. They get most of work as agricultural laborers for less than six months. Males are leading bread earners for their families. Male population participates in other workers category that requires some upgraded skills to be acquired through education.

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